



KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

MARCH – JUNE 2015

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Fish & Wildlife:

1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov

Office hours: Monday - Friday

8 AM - 4:30 PM ET

Gregory K. Johnson, Commissioner

Report Game Violations:

1-800-25-ALERT



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Joe Lacefield photo

Hunting on private land is a privilege.

Always get permission and thank the landowner.

Be a mentor. Pass on the heritage and traditions of hunting and fishing in Kentucky. Contact the department online at fw.ky.gov for more information.



@kyfishwildlife

NEW THIS YEAR

Changes from last season are printed in bright blue throughout this guide to assist you in noticing those changes.

WILD TURKEY HUNTING

A person may use a breech-loading or muzzle-loading shotgun no smaller than .410 and no larger than 10 gauge to take a wild turkey.

A person shall not mimic the sound of a turkey in an area open to turkey hunting and where turkeys are reasonably expected to be present from March 1 until the opening of the youth turkey season, and from the close of the youth turkey season until the opening of the general turkey season.

COYOTE HUNTING

Night hunting for coyotes is prohibited on Kentucky lands managed by Big

South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge and Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, including Beaver Creek, Cane Creek, Mill Creek and Pioneer Weapons wildlife management areas (WMAs).

PUBLIC LANDS

The Boone tract of Kentucky River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is open under statewide regulations for the spring turkey and squirrel seasons.

Ping-Sinking Valley WMA (Pulaski County) is open under statewide regulations for the spring turkey and squirrel seasons.

APPLY FOR AN ELK QUOTA HUNT

Kentucky has the largest elk herd of any state east of the Mississippi River and offers firearms, archery and crossbow quota hunts for elk each year.

Residents and nonresidents are eligible to apply for these quota hunts. Applications for these hunts go on sale January 1. Hunters must buy their elk quota hunt applications before midnight (Eastern time) on April 30.

Elk quota hunt applications can only be purchased via Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's mobile-friendly website at fw.ky.gov. A person who does not have access to the department's website to apply for any quota hunt may contact the department toll free at 1-800-858-1549 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern time) for assistance.

Hunters may submit one application for each of the four permit types, but can only be drawn for one hunting permit.

Each application costs \$10, and only individuals may purchase elk applications, not a party of hunters together.

Hunters 15 years of age and under may apply for a youth-only quota hunt during the same application period as the regular elk quota hunt drawing.

Applicants for this youth-only hunt may also purchase elk applications for the

regular elk quota hunts. A youth may not be drawn for the youth-only quota hunt and the regular quota hunt for elk in the same year, and if drawn for the youth-only hunt, will be permanently blocked from applying for the youth-only hunt again.

A random computer drawing is held in May to select the drawn hunters. Applicants may check fw.ky.gov to see if they were drawn.

KNOW THE LAW!

Please read this guide carefully to prevent being cited for a violation. Make sure you understand Kentucky's hunting and trapping laws before going afield. If you need help understanding a law call 1-800-858-1549, weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time.

The top five most issued citations related to hunting and trapping are: 1) Hunting or trapping without a license 2) Hunting or trapping without landowner's permission 3) Illegal take of game 4) Taking more game than the bag limit, and 5) Failure to tag or check game.

March - June 2015



KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

John Brunjes photo

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a summary of hunting laws, intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) in its entirety and should not be used as such. The exact wording of Kentucky's hunting and trapping laws can be viewed online at fw.ky.gov. Click on "Enforcement," then "Regulations," then scroll down to "Administrative Regulations."

OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Throughout the year, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife also produces regulation guides for fishing and boating, fall hunting, waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting (dove, wood duck, teal, woodcock, snipe and crow). These guides are available free wherever licenses are sold and are posted online at fw.ky.gov.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LICENSES and PERMITS

GENERAL HUNTER LICENSING

Persons who take or attempt to take game are considered hunters and therefore subject to licensing requirements.

Unless license exempt, hunters must obtain and carry while in the field proof that they have met the license requirements for the kind of hunting they are doing. This proof can be either a paper license/permit or a license authorization number.

Persons who can't show they are licensed properly while hunting risk being issued a citation.

Each hunter must have his or her own license or permit. Paper licenses and permits must be signed and the

hunter information portion (signature, address, eye and hair color, sex, height and weight) completed before going afield.

LICENSE-EXEMPT HUNTERS

In some cases, a resident hunter may not be required to buy a hunting license, permits to hunt deer, bear or turkey, or a Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit.

Here are those situations:

- Kentucky resident owners of farmlands, their spouses and dependent children hunting upon their own farmlands during an open season.
- Tenants, their spouses and dependent children hunting on farmlands where they reside and work.
- Kentucky residents on military leave of more than three days in this state who carry identification and papers verifying their leave status.

- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces based in Kentucky engaged in sport hunting or fishing on the following Kentucky National Guard properties: Hidden Valley Training Area in Powell County and the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Muhlenberg County.

Resident and nonresident children under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except the elk hunt drawing application.

Lose your license?

Replacements can be printed at no cost from fw.ky.gov.

Q: Does a nonresident who owns land in Kentucky have to buy nonresident licenses and permits?

A: Yes. **All** nonresidents must purchase nonresident licenses and permits.

HOW TO BUY LICENSES and PERMITS

It is the hunter's responsibility to know what type of license or permit is needed.

When buying a license or permit, the hunter's date of birth and Social Security number must be provided.

If you have licensing questions, call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern time.

IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased at various locations throughout the state. A list of license agents can be viewed online at fw.ky.gov.

BY PHONE

Licenses and permits can be purchased by telephone 24 hours a day by

calling toll-free 1-877-598-2401. All licenses and permits, except a disability license, elk drawing application and youth licenses and permits, can be purchased by telephone.

Hunters purchasing licenses and permits by phone will be charged a small convenience fee, and must pay with a Visa, Mastercard or Discover card, or an e-check. Hunters will be issued an authorization number which serves as the license or permit.

If requested, a paper license or permit (except short-term licenses) will be mailed to the hunter. The paper license must be filled out and signed by the hunter.

The authorization number and a picture ID must be carried in the field while hunting. Both the authorization

number and paper license are valid for the license year.

ONLINE

Licenses and permits also can be purchased online at fw.ky.gov.

Hunters purchasing licenses or permits online must pay with a Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover card, or a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife gift certificate. Gift certificates are sold online only at fw.ky.gov.

Hunters who buy licenses or permits online will not be mailed a paper license or permit but will receive an authorization number. The authorization number or a computer printout of the license or permit and a picture ID must be carried in the field while hunting.

WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT DO I NEED?

The tables below provide a quick overview of current licensing requirements. See the rest of this section for exemptions and complete residency, licens-

ing and hunter education requirements. Licenses and permits for the species below are not required for children under the age of 12.

Also: See page 5 for Senior/Disabled License eligibility.

KENTUCKY RESIDENTS	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and over OR Disabled
Deer	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Statewide Deer Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Fall Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Spring Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License	Senior/Disabled License
Trapping	Annual Youth Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit† + Federal Duck Stamp	Senior/Disabled License + Federal Duck Stamp

*Included in Youth Sportsman's License

†Included in Resident Sportsman's License

NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and over
Deer	Youth Hunting License + Youth Deer Permit	Annual Hunting License + Statewide Deer Permit
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Fall Turkey Permit
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Spring Turkey Permit
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License
Trapping	Annual Trapping License	Annual Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp

Other laws still apply!

All hunters, including those who are license-exempt or eligible to purchase reduced-price licenses, must abide by all other regulations as outlined in this guide.

Q: Can more than one Youth Turkey Permit be purchased?

A: Yes. Multiple Youth Turkey Permits may be purchased, but season bag limits must be followed.

LICENSE and PERMIT FEES

	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident	Nonresident
LICENSES	Annual Fishing	\$20	\$50
	Joint Husband/Wife Annual Fishing	\$36	Not available
	1-Day Fishing	\$7	\$10
	3-Year Fishing (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$55	Not available
	Nonresident 7-Day Fishing	Not available	\$30
	Nonresident 15-Day Fishing	Not available	\$40
	Trout Permit	\$10	
	Annual Hunting	\$20	\$140
	1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7	\$15
	7-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$55
	Annual Youth Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	\$6	\$10
	Shooting Area License (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5	
	Annual Trapping	\$20	\$130
	Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	\$10	Not available
	Annual Youth (ages 12-15) Trapping	\$5	Not available
COMBOS	Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$30	Not available
	Senior/Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing* (includes same license and permits as Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits.)	\$5	Not available
	Sportsman's License* (Includes combination hunting/fishing, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	\$95	Not available
	Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License* (Includes youth hunting license, 2 youth deer permits and 2 youth turkey permits.)	\$30	Not available
DEER	Statewide Deer Permit (two deer)	\$35	\$120
	Youth (ages 12-15) Deer Permit (one deer)	\$10	\$15
	Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	\$15	
BIRDS	Spring Turkey Permit (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	Youth (ages 12-15) Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10	\$15
	Fall Turkey Permit (statewide)(four turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit	\$15	
	Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com)	\$25	
	Pheasant Quota Hunt Permit (if drawn)	\$25	
ELK	Elk Drawing Application (deadline April 30; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10	
	Youth WMA Elk Drawing Application (deadline April 30; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10	
	Quota Bull Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$100	\$550
	Quota Cow Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$60	\$400
	Youth Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$30	\$40
	Out-of-Zone Elk Permit (Nonresident available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$30	\$400
BEAR	Bear Permit	\$30	Not available
	Bear Chase Permit	\$30	Not available
	Youth Bear Chase Permit	\$10	Not available
AREAS	Peabody WMA User Permit	\$15	
	Land Between The Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit	\$25, or \$35 with Backcountry Camping	
	Otter Creek ORA Admission Fees (per person) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$3, annual: \$30, children under 12: free.	
	Otter Creek ORA Special Activity Fees (per person, for use of horse trails, mountain bike trails and shooting range) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$7, annual: \$70	
OTHER	Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit (Hunter Apprentice Opportunity; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5	
	Habitat Improvement and Public Access Donation (voluntary; available at fw.ky.gov only)	Any amount	

*Peabody, LBL and Otter Creek permits, elk drawing application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit, federal duck stamp and trapping license not included. An additional deer permit is not included with a Sportsman's License. Kentucky's license year begins March 1 and continues through the last day of February. New licenses are required annually, except for the 3-year fishing license. A 1-day or 7-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on license. Resident and nonresident youth under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk drawing application).

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

All turkey hunters, unless license exempt, are required to purchase and carry with them in the field proof of purchasing an annual Kentucky hunting license and spring turkey permit.

Short term (1- or 7-day) hunting licenses are not valid for turkey hunting.

All squirrel hunters, unless license exempt, are required to purchase and carry with them in the field proof of purchasing a Kentucky hunting license.

Each hunter must have his or her own license or permit. Paper licenses and permits must be signed and the hunter information portion (signature, address, eye and hair color, sex, height and weight) completed before going afield.

RESIDENT LICENSING

A resident is any person who has established permanent domicile and legal residence, and has resided in Kentucky for 30 days prior to buying a license, full-time students enrolled in an educational institution for at least six months, or military service personnel on permanent assignment in Kentucky.

NONRESIDENT LICENSING

A person who does not meet the definition of a Kentucky resident is considered a nonresident and must purchase nonresident licenses and permits. Nonresident youth hunters are subject to the same license and permit requirements as

resident youth hunters. A nonresident who owns land in Kentucky must purchase nonresident licenses and permits.

YOUTH LICENSING

Resident and nonresident hunters under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except for the elk drawing application.

Persons under 12 years old, who have passed a hunter education course, may hunt small game and furbearers without being accompanied by an adult.

Resident and nonresident hunters ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase discounted licenses and permits, which are valid for the entire license year, if

RESIDENT SENIOR AND DISABILITY LICENSES

The following are eligible to purchase the Senior or Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing license (which includes the same license and permits as the Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits):

- Kentucky residents 65 years of age or older.
- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the Federal Social Security Administration, a state Workers Compensation Board, the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System or the United States Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management declared totally and permanently disabled by a recog-

nized authority.

- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50% disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Seniors need only show proof of age and residency to purchase this license. Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain a disability authorization card from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

To obtain a disability license authorization card:

If your disability is through the:

- **Federal Social Security Administration:** Call 1-800-772-1213 or go online to ssa.gov/myaccount to print the form showing your name, address, complete Social Security number and date of birth. It must state that you are disabled and drawing benefits. Send form to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife (address bottom left).
- **Veteran's Administration:** Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50% disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- If your disability is through other state or federal agencies call 1-800-858-1549.

Once the proper documentation is processed, applicants will receive their authorization card by mail.

The authorization card is not a license. It must be presented to the license seller, or the authorization number entered online, at the time of purchase.

License vendors cannot sell a disability license using an expired authorization card. Senior/Disabled Combination Licenses are valid through the end of February each year. If you lose your card, contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for a replacement.

Q: For how long is a disability authorization card valid?

A: A disability authorization card is valid for three years (check the expiration date on your card). Every three years, you must provide updated paperwork (following the instructions to the left) and get a new card. Those who already have a disability authorization card through the Veteran's Administration, Railroad Retirement Board or Office of Personnel Management may call 1-800-310-1873 to get a new card.

Mail or fax

To send disability paperwork to the department:

By mail:
KDFWR Disability License
#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601

By FAX: (502) 564-9845

they are purchased before the youth's 16th birthday. Persons 15 years of age and under who hunt turkey, elk, deer or bear with a firearm must always be accompanied by an adult.

The Annual Youth Hunting license authorizes the holder to hunt all small game species and migratory bird species.

The Youth Turkey Permit allows

the hunter to harvest one turkey. The Youth Turkey Permit may be used during any turkey season. The resident-only Youth Sportsman's License includes the Annual Youth Hunting license, two (2) Youth Deer permits and two (2) Youth Turkey permits.

SPORTSMAN'S LICENSE - SAVE \$55

Available to Kentucky residents

only, the Sportsman's License includes a combination hunting and fishing license, spring and fall turkey permits, statewide deer permit, state Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit and trout permit.

A federal duck stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com) is required for waterfowl hunting.

RECORDING, CHECKING and TAGGING

HARVEST LOG

All successful turkey hunters, including those who are license exempt, must fill out a harvest log as soon as the animal is taken and prior to moving the carcass.

Information that must be written on the harvest log includes the species and sex of animal taken, date and county where taken.

A telecheck confirmation number must be obtained by midnight on the day the turkey is recovered and prior to processing the carcass. The confirmation number must be recorded on the harvest log.

A harvest log is on the back of any paper license or permit. A printable harvest log is accessible by clicking the "Hunt" tab on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife online homepage and choosing "Hunting Home" from the dropdown menu.

License-exempt hunters, youths under 12 years of age, and those who only have a license authorization number may create their own harvest log by writing the information on a piece of paper or index card.

Hunters must have the completed

harvest log whenever afield during the current season.

TELECHECK

1-800-CHK-GAME (1-800-245-4263)

All turkeys harvested must be telechecked through the toll-free, automated check-in system. Hunters may also check in harvested turkeys online at fw.ky.gov.

Checking your harvested turkey takes about five minutes. Entering false information is unlawful. All harvested turkeys must be telechecked by midnight on the day the animal is recovered and prior to processing the carcass.

Telecheck is available 24 hours a day while hunting seasons are open. Listen to each question carefully and provide the requested information using the keypad on any touch tone phone.

Callers will be asked their Social Security number and code for the county in which the animal was taken. All youth hunters must use their Social Security number when telechecking an animal.

Callers must also indicate the animal's species and sex. Next, callers will be asked about the type of equipment

they used to harvest the animal, whether the land was private or public, and the type of license they used.

Once the harvest information has been entered correctly, the caller will be asked to hold for several seconds while the system submits the survey information. The hunter then will be given a confirmation number which is proof that the harvested turkey was legally reported. This number must be recorded on the hunter's log and retained throughout the season.

CARCASS TAG

A hunter shall attach a handmade tag to the carcass of any harvested turkey if transferring possession of the harvested animal to another person.

For example, a carcass tag is required if the hunter gives the turkey to another person, drops it off to be processed, or takes it to a taxidermist.

A harvested turkey in a hunter's possession is assumed to be theirs, unless the carcass tag states otherwise. The carcass tag must include the hunter's name, phone number and telecheck confirmation number.

GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

LANDOWNER PERMISSION

A person shall not enter upon the lands of another to shoot, hunt, trap, fish or for other wildlife-related recreational purposes without the verbal or written permission of the landowner, tenant, or person who has authority to grant permission.

Those who fail to obtain permission are subject to arrest and prosecution.

Railroad tracks and rights of way are privately-owned property and permission to hunt, trap or fish must be obtained prior to entry.

Landowners are under no obligation to allow hunters to retrieve game or

hunting dogs from their property.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Persons born on or after Jan. 1, 1975 must carry a valid hunter education card or hunter education exemption permit while hunting. Persons not required to have licenses or permits are exempt from

hunter education certification.

Hunter education courses are held throughout the state. Pre-registration must be done online at fw.ky.gov. More information about the registration process is available on the website or by calling Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

Children must be at least 9 years old to take the hunter education course. People who complete the course are issued an orange certification card. Hunter education cards issued by other states are valid in Kentucky.

Children younger than 12 years old are exempt from hunter education certification, but must be accompanied by an adult who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult must be in a position to take immediate control of the bow or firearm at all times while hunting. One adult cannot accompany more than two hunters under 12 years old at the same time.

APPRENTICE HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

Persons new to hunting who have not taken the hunter education course may buy a one-time temporary hunter education exemption permit online at fw.ky.gov.

This apprentice hunting opportunity allows new hunters in Kentucky to hunt for up to one year (from date of purchase) without a hunter education card. The permit requires its holder to hunt with a licensed, adult hunter (at least 18 years old) who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult shall be in a position to take immediate control of the exempted hunter's bow or firearm at all times while hunting. This law applies even if the exempted hunter is an adult.

After the hunter education exemption permit expires, the hunter is no longer exempt and must successfully complete a hunter education course.

The temporary hunter education exemption permit is valid only in Kentucky. It is not accepted at Blue Grass Army Depot or Fort Campbell.

Resident landowners, spouses and dependent children, tenants, their spouses and their dependent children are only hunter education exempt on property they own, or the property where they reside and work. When hunting elsewhere, they must comply with Kentucky's hunter education law.

REPLACEMENT HUNTER EDUCATION CARDS

Free replacement hunter education cards can be printed online at fw.ky.gov. On the homepage, click on the "Education" tab and select "Hunter Education" from the dropdown menu.

HUNTING METHOD EXEMPTIONS

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife grants exemptions to hunters with certain physical disabilities to hunt with a crossbow during archery-only seasons, or to use a stationary vehicle as a hunting platform. However, persons with qualifying physical disabilities must first have an exemption form completed and signed by a licensed physician certifying why the exemption is necessary.

Forms are available online at fw.ky.gov or by calling the department at 1-800-858-1549. A completed exemption form serves as the hunter's exemption permit. It should not be returned to the department. Persons who obtain an exemption are still required to have the

appropriate hunting license and permits, and must carry the signed exemption form with their hunting license and permits while in the field.

CONCEALED CARRY DEADLY WEAPONS PERMITS

Anyone who may legally possess firearms may carry firearms while hunting, but any firearms carried concealed must be done so pursuant to KRS 527.020.

CONVICTED FELONS

A person convicted of a felony is prohibited from possessing or hunting with a firearm in Kentucky. The prohibition on handguns applies to those convicted after Jan. 1, 1975. The prohibition on other firearms applies to those convicted after July 15, 1994. See KRS 527.040 for more details.

REPORT GAME LAW VIOLATIONS

Anyone may report wildlife law violators anonymously by calling 1-800-25-ALERT (1-800-252-5378).

Kentucky AFIELD

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Ducks fly overhead at
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or go to fw.ky.gov

WILD TURKEY HUNTING

SPRING HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	Youth-Only	General Season
Turkey	April 4-5, 2015	April 18 - May 10, 2015

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

FEEDING OF WILDLIFE

From March 1 through May 31, it is illegal to feed wildlife with grain, seed or manufactured animal feed outside the curtilage of the home (the area immediately surrounding a home or group of homes). This regulation does not apply to normal agricultural practices or food plots, or municipal areas not open to legal hunting or trapping.

PRE-SEASON CALLING

A person shall not mimic the sound of a turkey in an area open to

turkey hunting and where turkeys are reasonably expected to be present from March 1 until the opening of the youth-only turkey season, and from the close of the youth-only turkey season until the opening of the state-wide turkey season. However, locating turkeys with an owl, crow, coyote, or woodpecker call is permitted when scouting.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

A hunting license and spring turkey permit are required, unless the

hunter is license exempt. Consult the "General Information" section of this guide for complete license and permit requirements.

YOUTH-ONLY SEASON

The youth-only hunting weekend is open to children 15 years of age or younger, but youth hunting licenses and permits are valid for the entire license year if they are purchased before the child's 16th birthday. Youths who hunt turkeys at any time with a shotgun must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old. The adult must remain in position to take immediate control of the child's shotgun at all times. Adults who accompany youth hunters during the youth-only season are not required to have a hunting license or turkey permit. All youth hunters must use their Social Security number when telechecking a turkey.

LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Hunters may only use the following to take turkeys during the spring seasons:

- Breech-loading or muzzle-loading shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than .410.
- Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than No. 4.
- Longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Crossbows of any draw weight (no minimum) with a working safety device.
- Non-barbed broadheads with a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8-inch.

PROHIBITED SPRING TURKEY HUNTING METHODS

A person hunting wild turkeys shall not:

- Use a dog during the spring season.
- Hunt from a boat, or from any type of vehicle unless prescribed by regulation (see "Hunting Method Exemptions").
- Use or possess an electronic or digital calling device.
- Harvest a roosting turkey.
- Use live decoys.
- Hunt over bait. An area is considered baited until 30 days after the bait has been removed. However, a person may hunt wild turkeys on an area where grain, feed, or other substance exists as the result of a bona fide agricultural practice or manipulating a crop for a wildlife management purpose.

SPRING SEASON BAG LIMITS

A hunter may take a male turkey or a turkey with a visible beard. No more than one (1) bird may be taken per day. No more than two (2) birds may be taken per spring season. Any combination of male turkeys, or turkeys with visible beards, may be included in this two-bird season limit. Turkeys taken by youth during the youth-only season count toward the spring turkey bag limit.

HARVEST RECORDING

All harvested turkeys must be logged and telechecked. Consult the "General Information" section of this guide for complete information about harvest logs, telecheck and carcass tags.

CALLER/ASSISTANT

Anyone may call turkeys, or assist in the hunt. Callers and assistants are not required to possess a hunting license or turkey permit, and may carry equipment while in the field.

HUNTER ORANGE

Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange clothing during the spring turkey seasons. However, wearing an article of hunter orange clothing while carrying a harvested turkey is a simple and effective way to help prevent hunting accidents that can occur when a

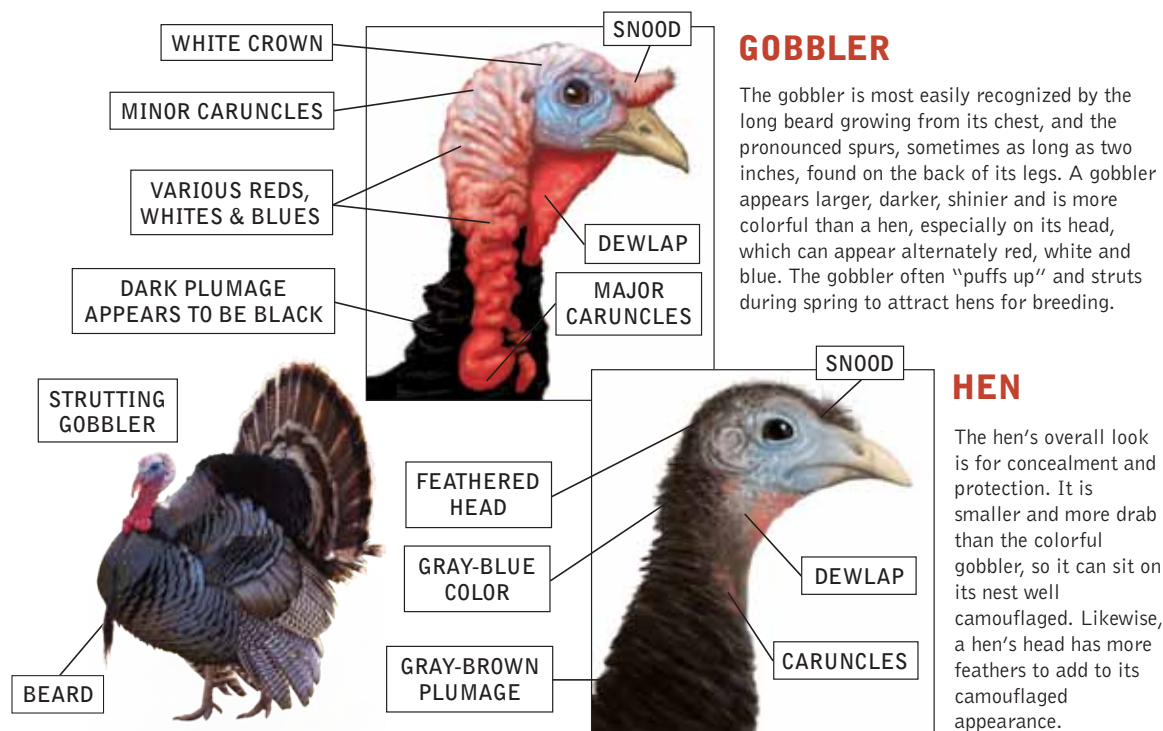
hunter is mistaken for game.

POSSESSION OF LIVE WILD TURKEYS and EGGS/RELEASE OF WILD TURKEYS

Due to the potential for spread of disease and genetic pollution, it is illegal to possess live wild turkeys. For the same

reasons, domestic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild. It is also illegal to possess or attempt to hatch wild turkey eggs. It is further recommended that turkeys not be artificially fed during any time of the year. Providing standing corn, wheat or clover patches is a much better alternative.

GOBBLER / HEN IDENTIFICATION



Source: National Wild Turkey Federation (www.nwtf.org).

TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

- Don't stalk a turkey. The chances of getting close enough for a shot are slim, and odds of becoming involved in an accident increase.
- Eliminate the colors red, white and blue from your turkey hunting outfit. Red or white are the colors hunters are looking for when differentiating a gobbler's head from the hen's grayish-blue head. These colors not only put you in danger, but they can be seen by turkeys as well.
- Don't move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter to your presence. A quick movement may draw fire. Yell in a loud voice, "Hey, I'm here," and remain hidden.
- Be particularly careful when using a gobbler call. The sound and motion may attract other hunters, and could draw fire.
- When selecting your calling position, sit at the base of a large tree, if one is available, to protect your torso and head. Position yourself so you can see 180 degrees in front of you.
- Never shoot at a sound or movement. Be certain of your target. Assume that every sound you hear is made by another hunter.
- When hunting with a turkey decoy, place the decoy about 20 yards from your calling position. To be safe, you need a clear line of sight beyond the decoy of at least 80 yards. This will enable you to see any approaching hunter and keep you at a safe distance if another hunter were to shoot at your decoy.
- Keep your shotgun unloaded when not in the field, and open the action or unload your shotgun when climbing a steep hill, stepping over low fence wire, or fording a creek.

SQUIRREL HUNTING

SPRING HUNTING SEASON

SPECIES	Spring Season	Bag Limit
Squirrel	May 16 - June 19, 2015	Daily limit is 6 squirrels; possession limit is 12

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

LEGAL SPRING SQUIRREL HUNTING EQUIPMENT

- Rimfire guns, or .22 caliber hand-guns.
- Muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and

- one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than No. 2.
- Muzzle-loading rifles.
- Archery or crossbow equipment.
- Pellets fired from .177, .20, .22 or .25 caliber air guns.
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.

PROHIBITED METHODS OF TAKING SQUIRRELS

- Trapping squirrels during the spring season, or hunting squirrels at any time with slingshots or blowguns is prohibited.

COYOTES and OTHER WILDLIFE

HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	Seasons
Coyote	Year-round, day or night (exceptions apply)
Groundhog	Year-round
Bullfrog	Noon, May 15 - Midnight, Oct. 31, 2015
Turtles*	Year-round, day or night

* Alligator snapping turtles may not be harvested.

COYOTES

Coyotes may be hunted year-round with no bag limit.

They can be hunted after daylight hours using lights or night vision equipment from Feb. 1 – May 31. Shotguns are the only legal firearm for night coyote hunting but a shell containing a single projectile may not be used.

Night hunting for coyotes is prohibited on Kentucky lands managed

by Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge and Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, including Beaver Creek, Cane Creek, Mill Creek and Pioneer Weapons wildlife management areas (WMAs).

Hand or mouth-operated calls and

electronic calls that imitate wounded prey or coyote calls are legal. It is legal to hunt coyotes over animal carcasses. Animal carcasses are considered bait. A hunter shall not place or distribute bait or otherwise participate in baiting wildlife on all WMAs, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, Jefferson National Forest, Land Between The Lakes and state parks open to hunting.

Coyotes may only be trapped during furbearer trapping seasons.

GROUNDHOGS

Groundhogs may be hunted year-round with no bag limit. A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

BULLFROGS

Bullfrog season opens at noon on the third Friday in May and runs through the end of October.

The daily limit (noon to noon) is 15. The possession limit is 30.

If bullfrogs are taken by firearm or bow and arrow, a hunting license is required. If taken by pole and line, a fishing license is required. If frogs are taken by gig or by hand, either a valid hunting or fishing license is required. It is illegal to possess a gig on a stream or lake, or in a boat, from Nov. 1 – Jan. 31.

TURTLES

Snapping turtles and soft shell turtles may be taken year-round with no bag limit. Alligator snapping turtles cannot be harvested.

A hunting license is required if turtles are taken by gun or bow and arrow.

Consult the Kentucky Fishing & Boating Guide for information on other legal means of harvest.

WILD PIGS

Wild pigs may be hunted year-round, with no bag limit, except on Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (www.nps.gov/biso).

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. However, hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours. A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt.

Landowners are strongly encouraged to work with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife to remove wild pigs from their property. Trapping is the most effective method of removal.

Tell your local conservation officer about the use of snares and/or corral traps on your property.

Wild pigs must be killed at the trap site, and not released. It is illegal to possess, sell or transport wild pigs in Kentucky.

To report sightings, illegal activities related to wild pigs, or to get advice on effective control, contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

BIRDS

- Some species of exotic, non-native

birds (pheasant, chukar, and Eurasian collared dove) may be hunted year-round, with no hunting license required and no bag limit.

- English sparrows and starlings may be hunted year-round with no bag limit, but a hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt.
- Pheasants released during quota hunts are not open to year-round hunting on Green River Lake WMA, Yellowbank WMA and Clay WMA.
- All birds of prey and native songbirds are protected under state and federal laws, and may not be taken.

HOOFED STOCK (OTHER THAN WHITE-TAILED DEER and ELK)

- Exotic, non-native hoofed stock may be hunted year-round.
- No license required
- No bag limit or checking requirement.
- Fallow deer are not legal to hunt on Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area.

MAMMALS and OTHER WILDLIFE

- The spotted skunk, a rare species found in eastern Kentucky, is a protected species and may not be taken.
- All federally threatened or endangered species are protected under state and federal laws and may not be taken.

PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

KENTUCKY FISH and WILDLIFE PROPERTIES

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife owns, leases or manages more than 80 wildlife management areas (WMAs) for public use. On some areas, a user permit is required. Many public-use areas have special regulations and hunting season dates that are different from statewide seasons.

This page lists WMAs where special regulations are in effect for the spring turkey and squirrel seasons. If you plan to hunt on any of these areas, make note of the differences from statewide regulations.

When hunting on WMAs respect the boundaries of adjoining private lands, be courteous, don't trespass, and keep safety in mind. Horseback riding on WMAs is prohibited during firearms seasons for turkeys.

BARREN RIVER LAKE WMA (Barren and Allen counties)

Hunters shall not hunt on the Peninsula Unit, including Narrows, Goose and Grass islands with a breech-loading firearm.

HIGGINSON-HENRY WMA (Union County)

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons, but turkey hunters may only use archery gear and crossbows (with hunting methods exemption permit).

LIVINGSTON COUNTY WMA

Open for the youth-only turkey season, and open only to youth hunters during the general spring turkey season.

OTTER CREEK OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA (Meade County)

Hunting during the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons ends at noon each day. Open for spring squirrel season, except hunters shall not use rifles, or ball or slug ammunition.

PEABODY WMA (Ohio, Hopkins and Muhlenberg counties)

Any person ages 16 and older must obtain and carry a Peabody WMA user

permit (\$15) while on the property; or be a member of a group with an event permit, either an individual event permit (\$25) or an annual event permit (\$250).

PIONEER WEAPONS WMA (Bath and Meniffee counties)

Hunters shall not use a breech-loading firearm to take turkey, or a scope or optical enhancement.

ROBINSON FOREST WMA (Breathitt, Knott and Perry counties)

The main block of this area is closed to turkey and squirrel hunting.

WEST KENTUCKY WMA (McCracken County)

All tracts are open for the youth-only turkey season. All tracts except those marked with the letter "A" are open for the general turkey season. Squirrel hunters shall not use a rifle, ball or slug ammunition. Check-in required before using an "A" tract. Tract 6 is closed to vehicular traffic from Feb. 1-April 16.

OTHER AREAS

The following lands are not owned or managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Hunting dates may differ from statewide seasons and advanced registration to hunt may be required. Some areas require paper licenses and have more restrictive hunter education age requirements.

Seasons on military installations are subject to change based on training exercises and other activities. Some areas offer "bonus" birds that do not count against the statewide season bag limit, but hunters must possess a valid hunting license and turkey permit to participate. Active duty military may be license-exempt on some areas.

Contact the appropriate agency for details.

BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT

431 Battlefield Memorial Highway
Richmond, KY 40475
(859) 779-6651

www.bluegrass.army.mil

Application period for spring turkey hunts is July of the previous year. Background check is required if selected. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. All ages must have hunter education card. Temporary hunter education exemption permit not accepted.

CLARKS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

91 U.S. 641 North, Benton, KY 42025
(270) 527-5770

www.fws.gov/refuge/clarks_river

Open under statewide regulations for spring squirrel and turkey seasons. Squirrel hunters who hunt with shot-

guns must use non-toxic shot. No bonus birds. Must use statewide turkey permit. Refuge user permit required.

FORT CAMPBELL MILITARY RESERVATION

6645 101st Airborne Division Ave.
Fort Campbell, KY 42223
(270) 798-2175

campbell.armymwr.com/us/campbell/programs/hunting

Post permit required. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. Contact for dates. Kentucky hunters may hunt on both the Kentucky and Tennessee portions of the base. No spring squirrel hunting. All ages must have hunter education card. Temporary hunter education exemption permit not accepted. Hunters must register their firearms prior to bringing a firearm onto the installation.

FORT KNOX MILITARY RESERVATION

Hunt Control Office, Wilson Road,
Building 9297, Fort Knox, KY 40121
(502) 624-7311 or (502) 624-2712
www.knox.army.mil/Garrison/dpw/emd/huntctrl

Post permit required. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. Contact for dates. Spring squirrel hunting permitted.

Maps and information

For maps and information on WMAs and other public hunting areas, go online to fw.ky.gov. On the homepage, click "Maps."

Rifles, handguns and solid projectile ammunition are prohibited for hunting small game. Ages 60 and under must have hunter education card, or hunter education exemption permit. Hunters must register their firearms prior to bringing a firearm onto the installation.

HIDDEN VALLEY TRAINING AREA

Closed to all turkey hunting, including youth-only and general spring turkey season. Closed for spring squirrel season.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

100 Van Morgan Dr.
Golden Pond, KY 42211
(270) 924-2065

www.landbetweenthe lakes.us

Area user permit required. Apply online in February for spring turkey quota hunts. Non-quota turkey hunt also offered. Hunters shall take no more than one (1) turkey with a visible beard. No bonus birds. Must use statewide permit. Spring squirrel hunting permitted. Contact for dates.

REELFOOT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

4343 Highway 157
Union City, TN 38261
(731) 538-2481

www.fws.gov/reelfoot

Quota turkey hunts early April by advance application. Hunters may not take more than one (1) bearded turkey. Counts as bonus turkey. No spring squirrel hunting. Refuge user permit required.